

Appl. S.N. 09/681,406
Amtd. Dated August 27, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2003

RD-28,383

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 29, 2003 wherein a restriction requirement was entered requiring election between the following asserted patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Species A (claims 1-12), drawn to a method of acquiring image data with free breathing, Species B (claims 13-18), drawn to a method of acquiring image data with free breathing/breath held and spiral scanning, Species C (claims 19-22), drawn to a method of acquiring image data with free breathing/breath held and spiral trajectory scanning, and Species D (claims 23-25), drawn to a method of acquiring image data without breath holding. Claims 1-25 are active in this application.

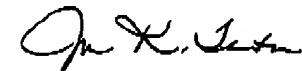
Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction to one of the four species of claims. It is respectfully submitted that the invention as recited in the claims of Species A, B, C and D are not independent or distinct from the other, but rather are related in that they each present a method of acquiring image data using a MRI system.

Subject to the foregoing traversal, Applicants elect for prosecution at this time claims 1-12 (Species A). Claims 13-25 are withdrawn from consideration at this time, but Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited. Favorable action on the claims pending in this application is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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